

County has a Little League World Series champion.

This was a great victory for Ocean View's players and coaches as well as their families and the Huntington Beach community that supported their long march to the championship.●

CHARLES TOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I celebrate the 225th anniversary of the incorporation of the city of Charles Town, WV. Charles Town has a rich history and heritage of great significance not only to West Virginia but to the entire nation.

Charles Town was originally founded in 1786 in what was then Virginia. The city was named after Charles Washington, the brother of our first President, George Washington. Charles Washington moved to the lower Shenandoah Valley in 1780 and there he began building his home known as "Happy Retreat." In 1786, he asked the Virginia State Legislature for permission to incorporate a town there, which he named "Charles Town." After Charles Washington's death, Charles Town became the county seat of newly formed Jefferson County.

Our Nation's focus turned to Charles Town in 1859 with the trial and execution of abolitionist John Brown and his followers after their historic raid on Harper's Ferry. The trial proceedings, and the words uttered by John Brown in Charles Town on the institution that held millions of Americans in bondage, helped shape our Nation's debate on issues surrounding the Civil War. When Virginia seceded from the Union, Charles Town became part of the newly created State known as West Virginia. Today, visitors come to Charles Town from all over to view an area steeped in the history of our Nation.

Charles Town has undergone many changes over 225 years. And those many changes are evident in its abundance of historic sites, including its architectural landmarks and museums, and transitions over time in its local economy. The residents of Charles Town have always met these changes with courage and vision, and have confronted challenges with resilience and strength of spirit. They are proud and hard-working, and will undoubtedly help carry the city into a promising future.

The city's local leaders—both past and present—also deserve credit for the city's success. Their leadership and inspiration have guided Charles Town as it has developed and grown, while remaining true to its heritage and our West Virginia values. I join Mayor Peggy Smith and the city council in celebrating this momentous occasion.

Two hundred twenty-five years ago, Charles Washington had a vision for the city of Charles Town and the people of the lower Shenandoah Valley who would establish their lives there. And, as the citizens and leaders of Charles Town look ahead, I believe

strongly that the city continues to hold great promise for a prosperous future.●

BILLINGS BIG SKY ALL-STARS

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I wish to share some exciting news from my home State of Montana. As many already know, the Little League World Series reached its thrilling completion last month. Montana's team, the Big Sky All-Stars from Billings, played in the U.S. Championship Game after a breathtaking, extra-inning victory over California in its previous game.

This Billings team was the first team from Montana to reach the Little League World Series. Only eight teams from the thousands of Little Leagues across the country make it to the World Series held in South Williamsport, PA, each year. One of our boys, Ian Leatherberry, originally said that the team was just hoping to play in the regional tournament. Instead, they played so long that they had a good excuse for missing the first week of school.

Behind the leadership of manager Gene Carlson and his coaches, these Treasure State champs became the talk of the tournament and the Nation. With great pitching, outstanding defense, and timely hitting, they quickly proved they belonged by defeating South Dakota and Louisiana, winning each game by a thrilling two-run margin.

Despite our State not even having a million people, Montana's All-Stars didn't blink when taking on the team from Huntington Beach, CA, for the right to reach the U.S. championship game. Montana's starting pitcher Cole McKenzie battled California's hitters, holding them scoreless. Then Ben Askelson hit a dramatic walk-off home run to give our boys an amazing 1-0 win in extra innings.

It is honestly no surprise to me that the Big Sky All-Stars punched above their class. Whether competing in Little League baseball or showing the rest of the world true sportsmanship, Montana knows how to compete.

Despite their loss in the national championship game, Gene and his players earned the respect of all of Montana. These 12 boys—Ben Askelson, Jet Campbell, Sean Jones, Connor Kieckbusch, Pearce Kurth, Ian Leatherberry, Brock MacDonald, Andy Maehl, Cole McKenzie, Dawson Smith, Gabe Sulser and Patrick Zimmer—played with great skill and determination, making everyone from the Big Sky State proud of their immense accomplishment.●

HONORING RAYMOND MEDER

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I honor Raymond Meder and his service to the Army of the United States during World War Two.

Raymond arrived in Normandy 6 days after D-day and went on to fight in the

frigid Battle of the Bulge. After that defining battle, Raymond Meder and his commanding officer were ordered to take a jeep full of ammunition to the front line—in German territory.

A mortar exploded in front of Raymond's jeep, flipping it over. The crash shattered Raymond's wrist and he suffered from shrapnel in his leg. Still under heavy fire, Raymond Meder crawled to the side of the road and covered his commanding officer with his own body. Sadly, that officer never made it. But Raymond returned fire through the night and into the morning with a machine gun until reinforcements arrived.

In a hospital in France, Raymond Meder was visited by an Army captain who told him, "You'll earn medals for this."

Yes, he earned them. But he never received them.

Three weeks later, Raymond returned to the battlefield. His wrist was deformed for the rest of his life. He never complained. And his military records were destroyed by a 1973 fire in St. Louis.

Raymond Meder passed away just a few months ago, on March 30. His son Ray and daughter-in-law Corine started asking questions about Raymond's service. Last month I had the honor of presenting to his family Raymond Meder's Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award, World War Two Victory Medal and Honorable Service Lapel Button.

These may be small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH CETNAR

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I honor Joseph Cetnar.

According to his sister, Joe grew up as "real New York City street kid." He was born to Polish-Ukrainian immigrants who wanted to give their children the American dream. He had to work for the American dream. And he did.

Joe worked hard his whole life from a very early age, when he sold hot dogs on the streets of New York. In 1941, Joe enlisted in the Army Air Corps. And he parachuted into France during the invasion of Normandy.

Like many veterans who returned from war, Joe didn't speak much about his experience in the European theater.

His military records were destroyed by a fire in 1973. And in 2009, Joe passed away, leaving behind his wife of 65 years.

Joe Cetnar never received the recognition he deserved. His sister Dotty and his niece Aleksy started asking questions about Joe's service. And together, we discovered that Joe earned several medals he never received.

Last month I had the honor of presenting to his family Joseph Cetnar's American Defense Service Medal,